

WARING

TREATISE

ON

ARCHERY

LONDON

1822



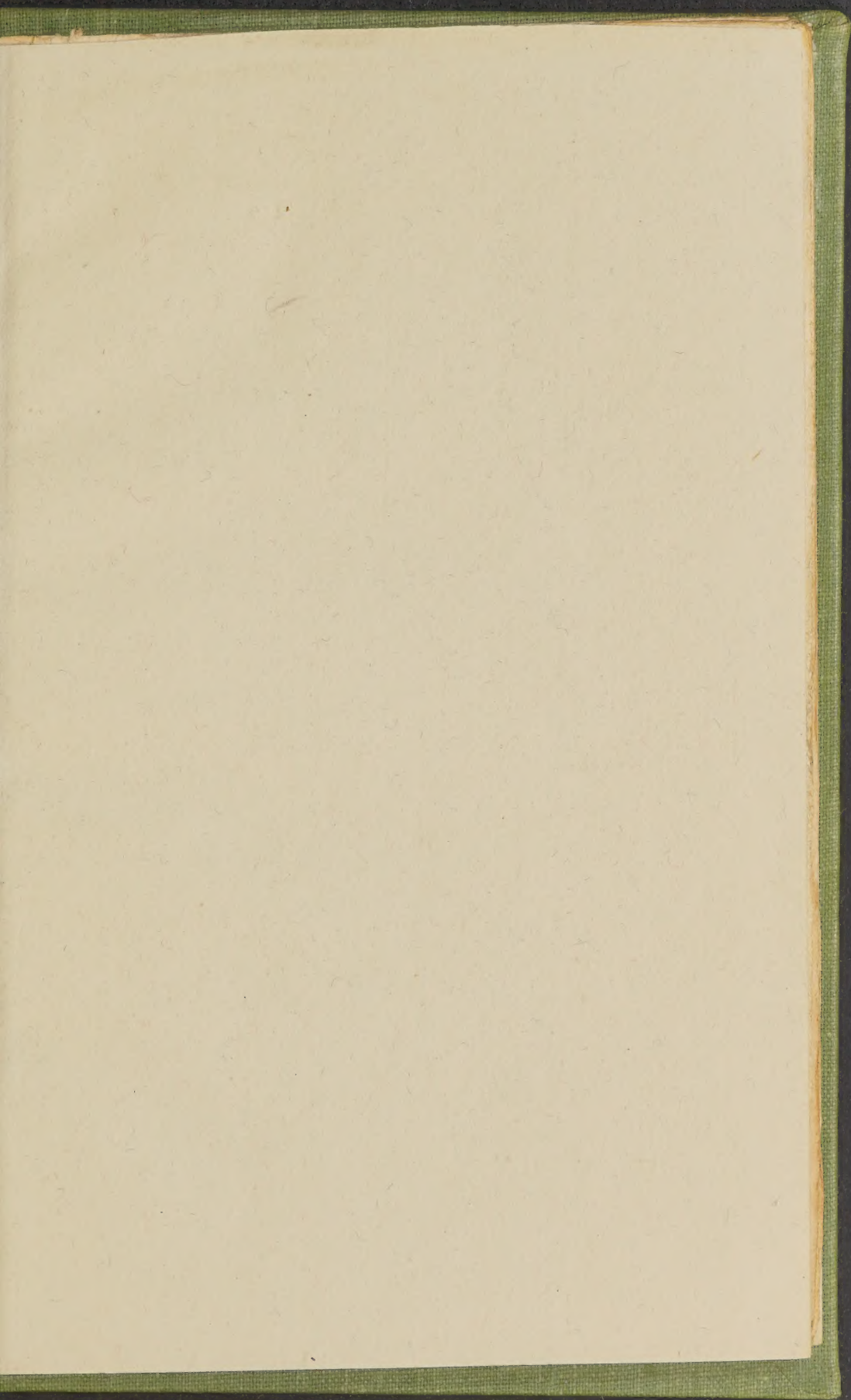




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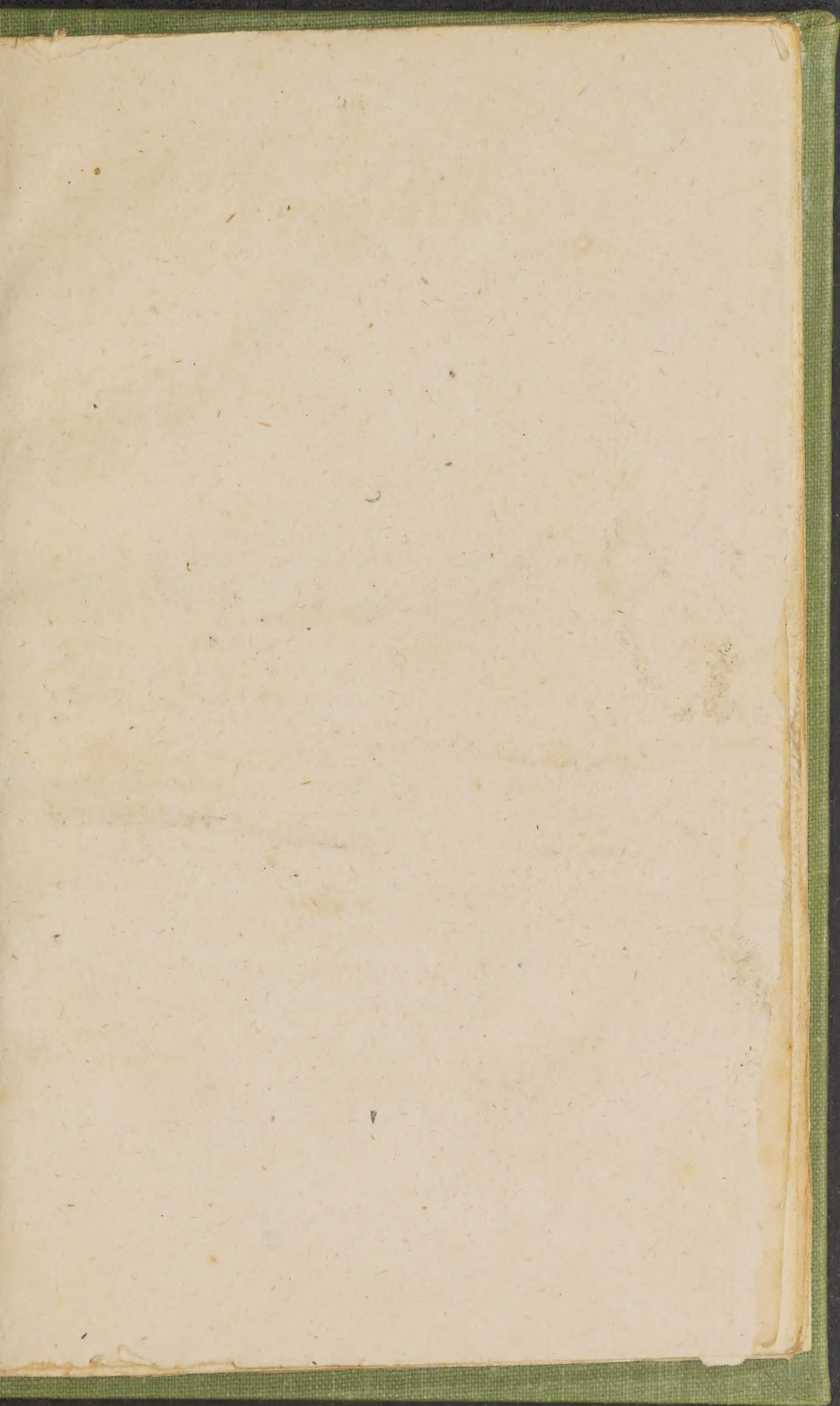
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A
TREATISE
ON
ARCHERY;
OR, THE
ART OF SHOOTING
WITH THE
LONG BOW.

Containing every requisite to obtain a complete Knowledge of that
Noble Weapon, considered as an Instrument of Amusement:

LIKEWISE

A Dissertation on the Steel Cross Bow, with directions for using it.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A Summary sketch of *Laws for Archers*—With many other
Observations and Instructions.

THIRD EDITION.

By THOMAS WARING.

SOLD ONLY BY HIM AT HIS
ARCHERY,
CAROLINE STREET, BEDFORD SQUARE.

1822.

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INTRODUCTION.

IN offering this small work to the lovers of Archery, the Author attempts not to introduce any new idea to their notice, his sole motive for writing this short treatise is for the express purpose of instruction in the practical part of Archery; for although many books have been wrote upon this art, no author has yet condescended to employ his talents upon what is thought by the experienced Archer as trifles; if therefore this should ever fall under his eye, let him not treat it with contempt, but transfer it to one less experienced. An author is seldom so fortunate to be understood by his readers when expressing his ideas in writing, so well as when personally addressing himself to them, but every thing contained in these few pages, it is hoped will be found so explicit and clear, that if read with *any* degree of attention need no further explanation.

The learner is requested when he takes up the Bow for the purpose of profiting from this work, to pause at the end of every sentence, remembering that each is in a manner a lesson of itself; every trifling particular is inserted, as the very least thing is to a learner worthy of notice.

There never was a mistaken notion more prevelant than that the Bow is too simple to require any study, but simple as it may appear, it will be found that without a theoretical knowledge the practical part never can be obtained, and so many inconveniences arise to a person attempting one without having acquired the other, that he soon grows disgusted because not able to overcome it: it is these difficulties that the author wishes to remove, by pointing out to the learner a proper method to pursue, for many thinking it too insignificant as not worthy a moments study, adopt, what their own ideas suggest, and by that, fall into such bad habits as to break Bow after Bow, till at last they get disheartened from pursuing the amusement any further, and lay it aside altogether as appearing to them trifling and childish, and in the end expensive. How any one could ever think the amusement of the long Bow as childish, can only be from the recollection that it was once his juvenile recreation, and supposing no greater feats can be performed by a manly weapon, than was done by a boyish plaything; but supposing his contempt of the Bow is founded upon that idea alone, it cannot justify him for the slur he throws upon all the lovers of Archery, and those not a few; for travel into any part of the Globe and he will discover that it is, or has been the amusement of the nobles and sovereigns of every nation, and is the general amusement of many Eastern Countries to this day; but the long Bow need not travel out of this kingdom to obtain honours, for it has

received sufficient to stamp its fame both as an instrument of war and amusement in its native soil; but at present it must be confessed that the inhabitants of Turkey, Persia, and of various other countries far excel the best of English Archers, and the reason is obvious "want of practice". A novice witnessing the performance of an unskilful Archer, wonders how a man can amuse himself with what he remembers was only looked upon at school as a toy; but when he beholds the shooting of an expert Archer, and is shewn the strength and powers of the Bow, his wonder changes to the opposite side, and he admires with delight what he before treated with contempt.

As the use of arms is universally allowed to be an honorable profession, why should not the pursuit of an amusement founded upon that warlike weapon, preceeded by the present, be deemed likewise honorable; and when it is recollected that the deeds achieved by our fore-fathers, which secured to England its present constitution was with the Bow: it cannot be denied but that it is the noblest amusement, and in its admirers seeming to draw forth a tribute of gratitude for past services: be this at it will, it was in former times thought of such importance as to become the object of the legislature's care, many acts of parliament having at various periods been framed in support of it, long after it was laid aside as a weapon of war, and which even went so far as to compel every man, except the clergy and the judges to practise shooting, and to have continually

in his possession a Bow and at least three Arrows: the City of London was obliged by other acts to erect butts and keep them in repair.

Edward III. wrote to the sheriffs commanding them to see that the people laid aside the games they then practised, which he called dishonest and unprofitable,* and exercise themselves with Bows and Arrows; and in 1498 many gardens were levelled and made into one field, for the use of the London Archers, which is now the artillery ground. In 1514 the inhabitants of Islington, Hoxton, and Shoreditch, having enclosed the fields which had been appropriated for the exercise of Archery into gardens, the citizens of London assembled in great numbers, and with spades and pick-axes levelled the banks and ditches, and restored the fields to their former state. Henry VIII. was particularly fond of Archery, and commissioned Sir Christopher Morris, master of the ordnance, to revive the amusement of Archery, which at that time was rather drooping, by establishing a society of Archers, which was called, "The Fraternity of St. George", who obtained a charter from the king with many privileges, in which was this remarkable passage:—"That if any Archer killed a man he could not be sued or anyways molested, if he had before he shot called out "*Fast!*" a word common at that time".

Archery was so much approved of as a bodily exercise by *Bishop Latimer*, that he even preached a sermon in favor of it before Edward VI.—

* Such as hawling stones, wood and iron; some in hand-ball, foot-ball, bandy-ball, and cock-fighting.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when Archery was again declining, the Bow-makers petitioned the Queen for authority to put the acts of Henry VIII. in force, by which they obliged every man who had not a Bow and three Arrows in his possession to provide himself accordingly: if the Bow-makers of the present age could again enforce the act, they might raise a sum that would go nigh to pay the debt of the nation.

In the time of James I. the inhabitants round London again began to encroach upon the grounds belonging to the London Archers; and upon the citizens petitioning the King against such proceedings, he granted a commission to a great many persons of quality, empowering them to enquire into the grievances complained of, and if true, to restore the grounds to the state they were in, at the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII.

After the restoration, Archery became again the general amusement, Charles II. himself took such delight in it, that he even knighted a man for excelling an excellent shot * whose portrait is in the possession of the Toxophilite Society. After the death of Charles it again declined, and was confined in practice to a few countries only, till about forty years ago, when it was revived with increased splendour throughout every part of England, as will appear by the number of societies that were instituted † many of which exist and continue their yearly and monthly meetings to this day.

* Sir William Wood. † See last Page.

As an amusement, Archery has these advantages over all others, which is not only approved of by our ablest physicians, but strongly recommended by them as being the most healthy exercise a man can pursue, strengthening and bracing the bodily frame, without that laborious exertion common to many games, every nerve and sinew being regularly brought into play, without the danger of being exposed to those alternate heats and colds incident to many diversions, as in cricket, tennis, &c.

On Sir William Wood's Tomb Stone were these two lines:

Long did he live the honor of the Bow,
And his long life to that alone did owe.

Archery is an amusement which steals (if it may be so expressed) upon a man's affections, and often makes him perform more than he thinks is in his power, for many an Archer who would not undertake to walk five miles in a journey, has walked six at the targets; for in shooting forty-eight times up to one target, and forty-eight eight times back again to the other, (the number of rounds the Toxophilite Society shoot on grand days,) besides walking to the Arrows shot beyond the targets, which upon a reasonable calculation may be reckoned five yards each time, and that five back again, makes ninety-six times one hundred and ten yards, which is exactly six miles. Another advantage attending the amusement of Archery is, that it is equally open to the fair sex,

which has for these last forty years been the favorite recreation of a great part of our female nobility, the only field diversion they can enjoy, without incurring the censure of being thought masculine; it will be needless to enumerate the many advantages received in pursuing this amusement; those who have tried do not require any further encomium in support of it, than what their own experience has already convinced them of.

It not being the author's intention to swell this pamphlet beyond what is absolutely necessary, he must refer them to a work lately published, entitled, "The English Bowman," in which he will not only meet with further instruction, but likewise derive great entertainment.

THE ART OF ARCHERY.

How to Bend the Bow.

The first thing necessary to learn, is to know which way the Bow should be bent; not knowing this properly, is the reason that they are sometimes broke by beginners in the attempt only to string them;—put a Bow into the hands of a person who never saw one, and he cannot take hold of an instrument that will more perplex him to use rightly, simple as it appears.

Female Archers will please to observe, that the following instructions, though addressed to gentlemen are equally applicable to them.

OBSERVE—The flat part of the Bow is the *outside*, called the back.

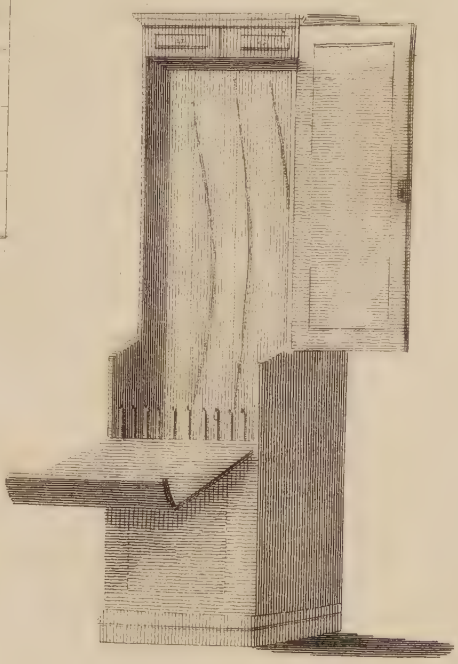
The round part is the *inside*—and called the belly.

The round side is always to be bent inwards, or towards the string.

To bend it the reverse way will break it instantly.

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Wm	9	3	2	5 for 4	1	52	163
B						43	93
C						23	40

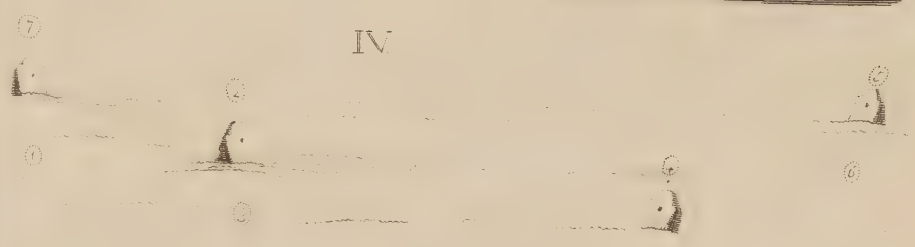
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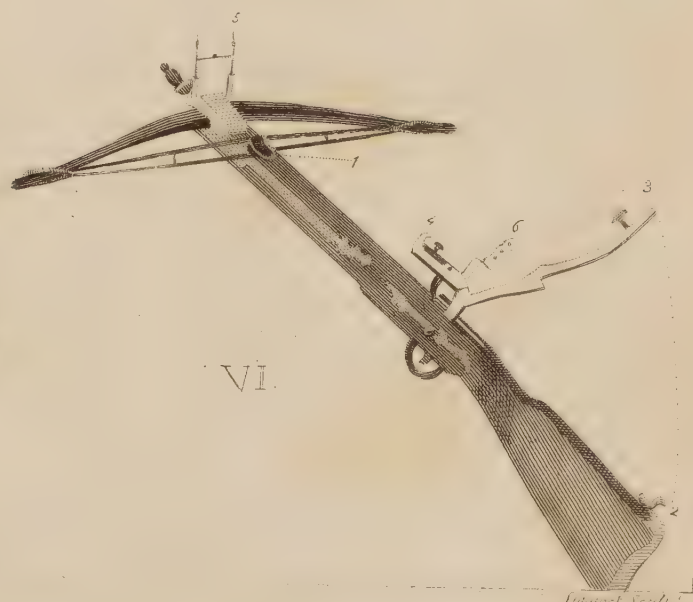
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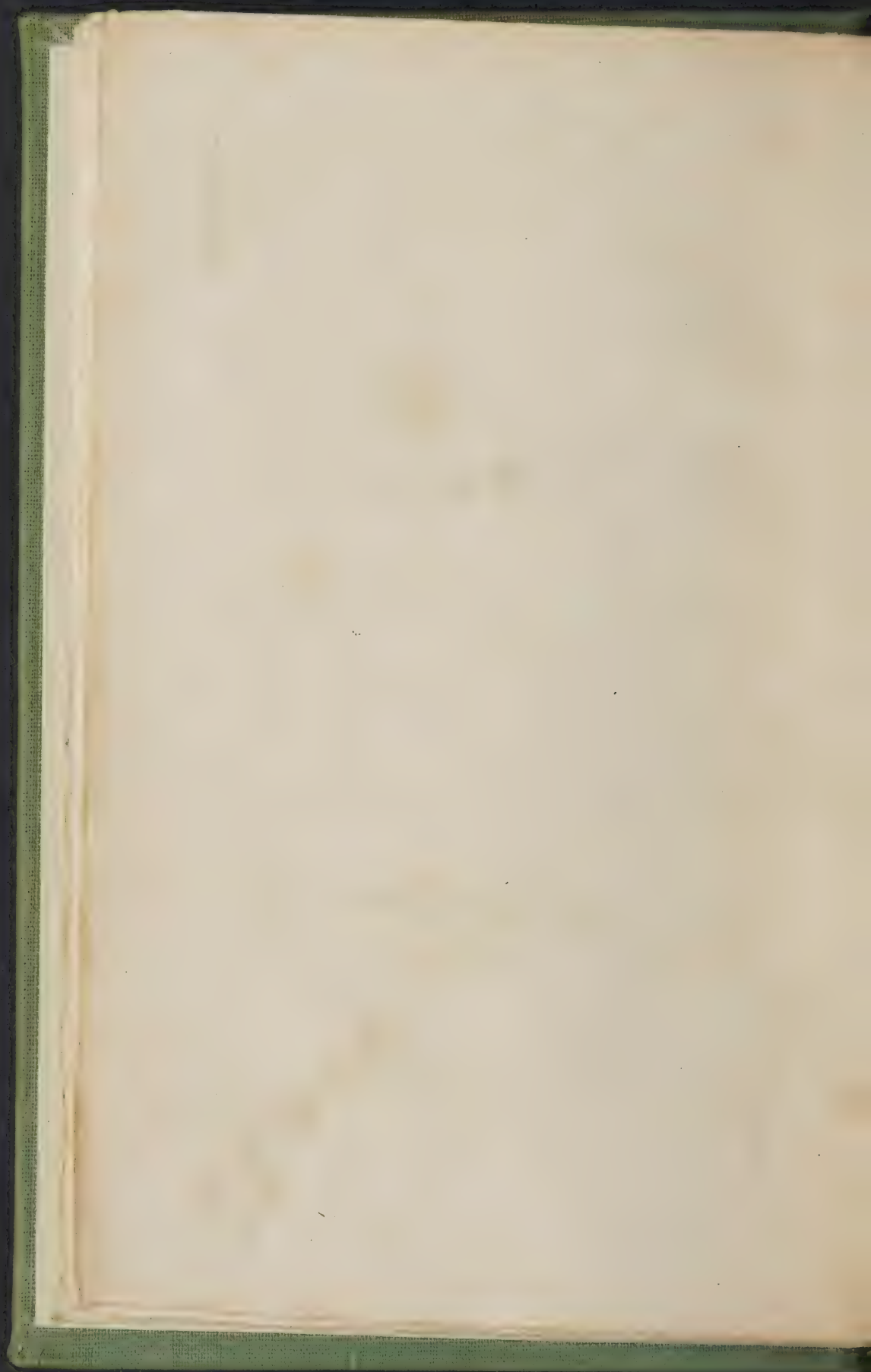
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J. Daniel Sculp.



Backed Bows when first manufactured are put into a reflexed frame, that by making them bend a little backward, may give them a quicker cast in shooting: if then a beginner should have a Bow that bends *with the round part outwards*, let him not suppose that it is to be strung so; but be it remembered, that a Bow however bent when unstrung, is invariably to be strung with the round part inwards.

The learner thoroughly understanding this part of Archery, may now attempt to string it, which in his hands before would have been in danger.

To String the Bow.

Take the Bow by the handle in the right hand.

This part by a young Archer is very soon forgot, who will take hold of the Bow continually above the handle, instead of the handle itself, which injures it very much, for as in the handle of the Bow lies the centre of action, so the resistance to each end of the Bow ought to be from that centre.

Remember then to take the Bow by the handle only,
The flat part towards the Archer.

The right arm to rest against his side.

Place the lower end of the Bow on the ground,
against the inside of the right foot.

The lower end of the Bow has always the shortest horn.

Turn the foot a little inward to prevent the Bow slipping.

Bring the left foot near a yard forward.

Place the centre of the left hand wrist upon the upper limb of the Bow below the eye of the string.

The tip of the thumb upon one edge of the Bow, and a knuckle of the fore finger upon the other.

When the above is thoroughly understood, pull up the Bow briskly with the right hand, and press the upper limb down with the wrist of the left, sliding the wrist at the same time upwards towards the horn, till the eye of the string falls into the nock, [see plate 1 figure 1] *before the left hand is removed* be sure the string is quite in the nock.

It sometimes happens that the string gets under the thumb and finger, which makes it difficult to push so far as the nock, but if the thumb and finger were pressed rather hard upon the two edges of the Bow, the string could not then so easily slip under, but must slide on before them.

If this is attended to, the learner with a very little practice, will soon be able to string his Bow, which is the most material thing in Archery.

If he cannot at first accomplish the stringing, it often draws from him a remark that the Bow is too strong, but here let it be observed, that it is not so much strength that is required as a *knack*.

The three last fingers of the left hand are of no utility, and may therefore be *stretched out*, for if they fall under the string, and it should not be carried directly into the nock of the Bow, the string in returning will pinch the fingers to such a degree, as to cause if the Bow is very strong, excruciating pain,

NOR is this all, for they cannot extricate themselves unless the Bow is bent again, which is not always very easy to be done.

Remember then to avoid this evil, stretch the last three fingers out, [see plate 2nd. figure 5.]

If the stringing is not directly accomplished, the practitioner should not be prompted by impatience to pursue any means contrary to the rules laid down.

If the Bow cannot be strung after a few minutes trial, let it be laid aside for a short time and resumed again.

The exertion of stringing, particularly if the Bow is strong, will sometimes force the right foot from its standing, to prevent which, place the foot against a wall or some other immoveable thing, and if the Bow cannot then be strung, let another person assist him, by drawing down the upper horn with his fore finger, taking care to keep it clear of the nock; with the strength of two persons combined, the Archer can hardly fail of succeeding,

Before the Bow is strung, observe that the string is not twisted round it, and that the noose is in the centre of the horn, and likewise when it is strung, see that the string from one horn to the other, runs parallel with the centre of the Bow, which if it does not, by slackening the string, the thumb or finger will place it in its right position.

To unstring the Bow.

The same attitude and action as described in the stringing, is to be observed in the unstringing, with

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this difference only—that the left wrist must be closer to the top—indeed so far, that the fore finger may reach round the horn, and the tip of it fixed in the eye of the string, this done, pull the Bow up briskly with the right hand, and press down the upper limb with the wrist of the left, the same as in stringing it, and the instant the string becomes slack, the fore finger which must be ready in the eye, brings it out of the nock. The movement of slackening the string must be very quick.

The finger must not attempt to bring the string out of the nock until it is slackened, else the friction of the finger-nail will cut it, which at all times must be avoided, as it thereby weakens, and in time breaks it. There is another way of unstringing the Bow,—place the short horn on the ground, and the flat side of the upper limb on the palm of the left hand, the string upwards; press the right arm down on the handle, and when the string is slightly slackened, the thumb of the left hand, which is close to the eye of the string will bring it out of the nock.

When the Bow is strong, both the stringing and the unstringing will become easier, by quickening the motion,

Attitude in Shooting.

Madame Bola, formerly a famous opera dancer, upon being taught the use of the Bow, declared that of all attitudes she ever studied, (and surely some little difference of opinion ought to be paid to one, whose whole life was spent in studying attitudes,) thought

the position of shooting with the long Bow was the most noble, and elegant she had ever seen; certain it is, that the figure of a man cannot be displayed to greater advantage, as when drawing the Bow at an elevation.

OBSERVE—That no part of the front of the body is to be turned towards the mark.

Only the face—for instance.

If the mark is placed full south, the body ought to face the west.

The heels should be about six or seven inches apart.

The neck to incline a little downwards.

The left hand which holds the Bow must be held out quite straight,—the sure way to do this, will be to turn the wrist as much in as possible, by this means, the Bow by being grasped only very easy, will rest firm in the hand; but if the arm is not turned in, the strength of the Bow will fall upon the thumb, and the consequence of such holding, will so strain the thumb, as to render it too weak to resist the strength of a strong Bow; therefore, can never be drawn up to the head of an Arrow.

Remember then, that the arm be so turned in, that the string strikes it when loosed; the blow will hurt the arm without some protection, but that will be treated of hereafter.

When taking aim, the Arrow is brought up towards the ear.

Not in a line to the eye as many suppose. (see plate 1. figure 2.)

Nor must the Bow be so held as to bring the pile of the Arrow in a line with the eye and the mark, for in that case when shot off, will go considerably to the left of it, for draw three imaginary lines from the mark to the eye, from the eye to the string when drawn up, and from the string to the mark, and they form three sides or triangle.

And then again, draw three more first from the pile of the Arrow to the eye, from the eye to the string, and from the string to the pile, and they will form another triangle, distinct from the first,

Thus if the left line of the small triangle be placed upon the left line of the large one, the top angles of both, from the bottom right angle will point different ways.

It therefore appears evident, that as the nock of the Arrow is to the right of the eye, so likewise must the pile or head appear to the view on the right of the mark.

Some years since a gentleman conceived an idea that the Arrow should go through the Bow, and not from the side, and consequently had a hole bored through one, which to keep it from breaking, was obliged to be strongly braced with irons; but no one adopted his method, and he himself soon gave it up.

In drawing the Arrow from the pouch, bring it out by the middle.

The Bow during this may be held horizontally with the string upwards.

The Arrow is carried *under the string* to the left of the Bow, still held by the middle, till the pile reaches the left hand; the fore finger of which is thrown over it, while the other hand retreats back to the nock, to look for the cock feather, † which when found the Arrow, is slid down the Bow, and fixed upwards on that part of the string, which is exactly opposite the top of the handle. (see plate 1. figure 3.)

The finger of the left hand is then removed, and encircles the Bow.

Many beginners are in the habit of holding out the left fore finger when drawing the bow, to confine the Arrow from falling off the hand, but that is quite unnecessary; the fault of the Arrow falling, is owing to the want of a proper *method in drawing*, which fault will wear off by practice; but as errors are often instantly corrected, when the cause is discovered, so will the learner perhaps be able the first time to overcome this impediment.

The reason of the Arrow falling, is this, that in drawing the Bow, the fingers *twist* the string, and the Arrow being on the string, is carried the way the string turns, which is occasioned by the fingers holding it so far up as the first joint, for as the tip of the fingers naturally hang over, it causes the greatest pressure on that or the left side; now hold the string

† The description of the cock feather, is given in page 28.

as near to the tip as possible, and it will twist the other way, and the Arrow will go back to its place.

The string should be about half-way between the tip of the fingers and the first joint.

If the learner cannot yet make the Arrow rest on his hand, 'twere better till he acquired it by practise, to hold his Bow rather obliquely, than to stretch out his finger, for should he draw his Arrow up to the head, 'tis not improbable that in loosening it, the point might severely graze his finger. If the Bow is held a few degrees out of a perpendicular line, that and the knuckle, form a kind of groove for the Arrow to slide in.

Another disadvantage attends the shooter, when he holds the string too far up the fingers; which is, that he cannot so easily disengage them when prepared too loose; therefore, it will be useless to be very nice and exact in taking aim, for the exertion the fingers require to disencumber themselves, will force the string out of its position, and however trifling it may be, will send the Arrow considerably wide of the mark.

But if the string is held as above described, the loose becomes easy, and as quick as thought can command it.

In pulling the string up, the thumb is not used, only the three fingers,—and two fingers are better than three.

The string is to an Arrow as a rudder is to a ship, the more it is drawn out of the centre of the Bow,

the more the Arrow will go when shot off to the opposite side of the mark, and the greater difficulty the fingers have of loosening the string, the more liable they are of drawing it out of the centre.

As the left hand raises the Bow, the right should begin to draw, so that when it is held up to its intended elevation, it should be above half drawn.

It does not do to elevate the Bow quite undrawn, for the right hand in reaching to the string, displaces the position of the body.

It is the method of our best Archers as they raise the Bow, to draw it three parts of the way—there pause to take aim—then draw it quite up to the head, and instantly loose, for it should not be kept upon the stretch more than a second or two, for fear of breaking.

The best of Bows when drawn up to the head of an Arrow, are full seven eighths towards being broke, for pull one up another eighth above the Arrows length, and it is almost impossible, that it should escape from breaking.

It has often happened, that where ladies and gentlemen's Bows and Arrows have been promiscuously laid together, for a person to take up a ladies Bow, and not knowing any difference, a gentleman's Arrow which has stood till drawn up to the twenty-four inches, but when pulled beyond that, has snapped in several pieces.

A gentleman on no account whatever, ought to take up a ladies Bow, even with a proper Arrow; for

it being made much inferior to his strength, yields so easy to his pull, that he unconsciously draws it up beyond the power the Bow will bear.

A Bow of any description whatever, ought not to be drawn without having an Arrow in it, many only intending to try the strength of one, do not think that precaution necessary, and often draw it too far, supposing they could not go beyond the proper limits, but an Arrow is a guide to the arm, and warns one when to stop.

When drawing a Bow in a room, the person should turn himself from the windows, mirrors and glass of every description; for should the Bow break, the damage will be then confined to the Bow only, otherwise, as pieces sometimes fly a great way, the mischief might extend to the above articles.—And he should still be more careful, not to draw a Bow when another is standing before him, for a stander-bye might receive great injury if the Bow was to break:—the shooter himself scarcely ever receives any, as the pieces fly from him.

When the shooting is finished for the day, or only suspended for a hour, 'tis best to unstring the Bow, but in going from mark to mark it is unnecessary.

When the shooting is over, the Bow should be well rubbed with a piece of dry baize, especially after rainy or hazy weather—The cloth case should likewise be kept dry:

Many Archers use a piece of waxed cloth, which is of great utility, as it not only gives the Bow a polish, but is a preventative against damps penetrating; this precaution however, is not so much required for self Bows, as backed ones.

Self Bows are made of one piece of wood only, and that is generally of yew, but the long known difficulty of procuring good English yew,* has compelled Bow makers of late years, to resort to various other woods, all containing great spring, but little pliability; the deficiency of the latter is amply supplied by the addition of a slip of ash, or some other tough wood glued to them; the toughness of the one combined to the elasticity of the other, both acting in conjunction, make capital Bows, and these it is that are called back'd Bows.

It is these Bows that require some care in keeping the damp from: and again on the contrary, from being kept in too dry a situation, such as being in a very hot room, for that will perish the glue, and make the pieces come asunder;—the best place is a closet, or a wooden case made for the purpose, and fixed up in a hall, called an ascham, as mentioned in page 45.

An Archer should never lend his Bow to another, while shooting with it himself; for two persons to

+ When the Bow was used as a weapon of war, the English yew was mostly so bad, even at a period when it was cultivated for the purpose, that every merchant trading abroad, was compelled by act of parliament, to import a stipulated number of staves. Robert's English Bowman, page 131.

shoot with the same Bow, at the same time, is working it too much, for it is being doubly kept in full bend which destroys its elasticity.

A Bow when not in use, should always be locked up, or otherways secured, that it might not fall into the hands of others, for more Bows are broke by strangers and servants, through their being exposed to their curoosity, than by the shooters themselves; for as it is most commonly the case, that they do not know how to use them, nor even to string them, they generally commit some mischief, which if they do not absolutely break in pieces, they perhaps so far damage that the Bow breaks in the Archers hand the first time he draws it; and as the cause of the accident is seldom known, it is often unjustly imputed to the fault of the wood.

As this hint is given for the benefit of young Archers, it is to be hoped they will not neglect it, and should they be from home, where they cannot have that convenience, let them take off the string.

The handle should not be in the centre of the Bow, but under it; thus the lower limb is shorter than the upper one, by the depth of the handle; it is therefore made stronger than the upper.

If the centre of a Bow is in the centre of the handle, both limbs are of the same length, and must therefore be of the same strength, and should approach in shape the sixth segment of a circle, so far the Bow is correct; but to send an Arrow from the centre of the string,

and centre of the Bow is rendered impossible from the situation of the hand, holding the Bow covering its centre: the Arrow then must go from the Bow at least two inches and a half above the centre: supposing the handle five inches deep, the part of the string which draws the upper limb, is shorter by five inches than the lower part consequently the upper limb is more bent when drawn to the length of an Arrow, than the lower limb, therefore, do not act in conjunction which they ought to do: to make the Arrow then go from the centre of the Bow, the handle must be placed below the centre, which is then met by another circumstance, that the lower limb becomes shorter by five inches than the upper, and would therefore, when drawn up to the length of an Arrow be most bent, therefore again irregular: to remedy this, the lower limb is made the strongest, by which it so much resists the pull of the string, as to be enabled to keep pace in the drawing with the upper limb, and the shooting therefore, becomes more steady and correct. Observe, that both ends of the Bow must bend equally when the handle is exactly central; nor does it matter which end of the Bow is held upwards, but where the handle of the Bow is under the centre, then the upper limb must bend the most, and always be drawn upwards; if by accident it should be drawn with the long limb downwards, the Bow will have a narrow escape if it is not broke, for a long Arrow is not only drawn against the short limb, but likewise with the short part of the string.

A good guide to a young Archer will be the silk lapping, for if he nocks his Arrow on the string where there is no silk, he will at once see he has got the wrong end of the Bow.

It will be observed, that every Bow has generally a number immediately over the handle, which is the number of pounds it takes to draw the Bow down to the length of an Arrow.

Thus a man according to the Bow he can pull, may judge of his own strength. Fifty pounds is the standard weight of a Bow, and he who can draw one of sixty with ease, as his regular shooting Bow, may reckon himself a strong man; though some can draw one of seventy and eighty pounds, but they are very few.

A man has to exercise double the strength that the Bow is marked; for if he draws a Bow of fifty pounds with his right hand, he must have the same strength in his left to resist that pull.

Ladies Bows are from twenty-four pounds to thirty four.

Upon Arrows.

Arrows for shooting are generally selected according to the power of the Bow, and are weighed against silver money at the mint standard weight; thus Arrows weigh from three to twenty shillings, through seldom shot with above six,

Mr. Roberts, in his English Bowman, (page 153.) gives the following table for directing what Arrows to shoot with, at any particular distance,

30 yards from.....	4s...to...6s.
60.....	3s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.
90 } 120 }3s.....to 4s. 6d,

Thus it will appear, that an Arrow of 4s. and 4s. 6d. is a proper weight for any of the above distances, which shews there is no absolute rule what Arrows to shoot with, as what suits one person may not suit another, for a great deal depends upon the strength of the Bow, and whether it has a sharp or dull loose, (for two Bows may be of the same strength, yet one shall send an Arrow further than the other, for it is not only strength that is required, but a quick cast,) upon the method of drawing and loosing, and various other causes, in short it seldom occurs, that two Archers shall shoot exactly alike: it is this part in Archery that is so difficult to acquire, what is called a knack, and which only can be obtained by attention and practise, and all errors attending these must be corrected by the Archers own observation.

A light Arrow may be used with a strong Bow, but a heavy Arrow should not be used with a weak one.

A shooter should always select his Arrows, and set apart particular ones for particular distances.

In shooting at one distance, let the Arrows be of an equal weight, for when the Archer has got into a train for shooting well, an Arrow that is heavier or lighter than the one that shoots best, must vary more or less in the distance. Thus the Toxophilite Society, though they only shoot with two Arrows, have always another of the same weight in their pouches, that in case, one of the two gets broke or any ways damaged, it may instantly be replaced, and thus they denominate three Arrows a pair.

This expression is only current among themselves, to call three a pair certainly does not sound well; a pouch of Arrows would be a more appropriate expression.

Arrows beside their weight vary in length; ladies' Arrows, or for Bows of 5-feet long, are 24-inches in length. Bows under 5-feet 9-inches have Arrows of 27-inches in length, and above 5-feet-9, 28, 29, and sometimes 30; but the last must be to a very long Bow indeed, and a man must have very long arms to draw such a one up to the head, but after all, such long Arrows are hazardous to the Bow, even a 29-inch Arrow is very dangerous to some. To Bows therefore of 5-feet 10 inches long, no Arrows above 28-inches ought to be used, though for many years

27-inches has been the general length, and to those who wish to preserve their Bows, rather than be ambitious of drawing a long Arrow, are recommended to shoot with them only.

Arrows are likewise shaped differently, some are thick at the pile and gradually slope to the nock. Some are made to be thickest near the middle, and others are stoutest close under the feathers, and taper gradually to the pile. Though good Arrows of any shape will fly well at almost every distance within the power of the Bow.

A great many Archers however differ in this respect, even down to the very pile, who maintain that blunt-headed Arrows are preferable to sharp ones, and others again maintain the contrary.

The only advantage attending the blunt pile, is that when they are shot into the target-frame, or any other wood work, they are more easily extracted.

Some again think that an Arrow with a blunt pile goes further than with a sharp one, for as a sharp pile is made something in the shape of a sugar loaf, and the sides incline broader as it lengthens, so it is supposed to have a greater superficial front, therefore meets with greater difficulty in penetrating the air than the blunt one, which being equally thick, has but its bare circumference to contend against, and consequently meets with less resistance than the other.

The truth of this argument is left to the practitioner, who will by his own experiments be able to judge for himself.

He should however be careful not to shoot with Arrows of various lengths:

All Arrows have generally three feathers, either goose or turkey; two of which consist of one color, and the third of another, which odd color is to point out the feather that should be uppermost,

Upon a trifling inspection, the learner will observe that every Arrow is inlaid at the nock with horn, on one side of which a feather is laid, on the opposite side none; that feather fixed on the horn is the cock-feather; the other two are placed at an equal distance from it.

Now place the Arrow on the string with the cock-feather uppermost, that is to say, the further side from the Bow, and the other two will slide over it, without being rumpled or discomposed, but place the cock-feather downwards, or next the Bow and the feather will go directly upon it, which not only injures the feather very much, but very soon takes it off; besides an Arrow so shot, is turned from the course of its destination by the feather as it passes over the Bow, raising the end of it.

The cock-feather therefore must always be uppermost, and that it may be the more easily found, it is

often different in color from the other two, but let this be a guide to the learner, that the feather which is placed on the horn is the cock-feather, let the color be what it will; many Archers prefer all of the same color, and to one of any experience it is of no consequence.

Every Archer should have his mark painted on his Arrows under the feathers, (this is generally a pattern of some ribbon) to distinguish them from others, else where four or five are shooting together it creates great confusion and delay in each collecting his own, but where the Arrows are painted, each Archer can see his own before he draws them from out of the ground. The mark need not be more than an inch broad.

Great care should be taken in drawing the Arrow from the ground or mark.

Inexperienced shooters will take hold of their Arrows by the nearest part they can reach, which is bad, for it sometimes breaks the Arrow, very often bends it, and almost always rumples the feathers.

If the Arrow is in the mark, take hold of it close to the mark, and in drawing it out turn it: the same to be observed when in the ground, take hold of the Arrow close to the ground, and be careful to draw it out in the same direction that it went in before it is raised, else the Arrow will break in the ground.

An Archer should keep his Arrows clean, and the feathers smooth, and if they are anyways rumped, they should be readjusted.

An Archer before he goes into the field, should see that his Bow and all other apparatus is in complete order.

Viz.—That his Arrows want no piles—that no feathers are off, or otherwise out of repair.

The nock of the Arrow should exactly fit the string, not so large as to fall off, nor so small as to require force to push it on, for then it will break; but just sufficiently wide as to adhere to the string without pressure against the sides of the nock. Every Archer should have a small flat file to widen the nocks when they are too small.

The string should be whip'd with sewing silk on that part where the Arrow and the three fingers are placed, (*viz.*) opposite the top of the handle, and this ought never to be neglected, as from such neglect, proceeds the cause of its breaking, by the nock continually rubbing against it, and the breaking of a string, sometimes causes the breaking of a Bow.

When the silk wears off, the string should be re-whip'd directly.

Some Archers likewise whip the eye and the noose, which though not absolutely necessary, is not a bad plan, for where there is any friction, too much care cannot be taken,

If any of the threads of the string are broke, 'tis best to throw it away and take another.

Two or three spare strings ready fitted for the Bow, and whip'd should be taken into the ground, for fear of accidents, and here let it be observed, that every Archer should know how to fix a string to his Bow.

It will be noticed that on one end of the string an eye is already made: the other as Bows vary in length is left for the Archer himself to fit on, but if he is not informed in what manner it is done, seldom of himself can do it right, though nothing more than what is called a "timber noose" (*see plate 2, figure 3.*) the best way to get into the right plan, is to examine how the noose on an old string is formed.

The distance of the string from the centre of the Bow when braced or strung, for a long Bow should not be less than five inches and a half, nor more than six, but for a Bow of five feet long, the distance ought not to exceed five inches.

The string should not be allowed to ravel, this often happens by its coming off and untwisting, particularly when it is drawn out of the cloth case.

When this occurs, it should be re-twisted and waxed before it is put on.

If the string is looped at the eye, to the top horn with a piece of silk or narrow ribbon, it will not then come of.

The distances for shooting are various, those at the butts are thirty, sixty, ninety, and one hundred and twenty yards.

Butts are made from long plats of turf, pressed close down, and are about eight feet wide, inclining narrower towards the top; the base is between three and four feet thick; the height at the middle about seven feet; the top is generally finished according to the fancy of the Archer, as pyramidical, circular, or in the shape of an urn, (*see plate 1, figure 4.* .

Mr. Roberts' recommends turf cut from commons as possessing the roots of heath, and is therefore preferable to any other, because it knits the sods firmly together, and makes them more durable.

If they are built in a field or pasture where sheep are suffered to graze, they should be fenced in with a slight moveable railing, to prevent them from rubbing against the sides, and during the shooting, the sheep should be penn'd up, to prevent accidents.

A set of butts consist of four, and so erected, that one shall not intercept the view of another; they take up very little room in width, and are generally built according to the plan laid down in plate 2nd. by which an Archer if he stands at the spot marked No. 1, has a thirty yard mark; let him stand at No. 2, and he has thirty yards back again. If he stands on the spot marked No. 3, he has a sixty yard mark, at No. 4,

he has the same distance back again from No. 2, to No. 5, is a ninety yard mark at No. 6, the same back again from 5, to 7, and from 7, to 5, one hundred and twenty yards.

The two furthest butts may be erected exactly opposite to each other, the thirty yard butt should be at least five yards from the line of the other two, and the sixty yards five more.

The mark fixed on the butts, is a round piece of pasteboard fastened by a peg through the centre, and the shorter the distance the smaller the mark is, thus for the 16 roods, or 120 yards, the mark is 16 inches in diameter; for the 12 roods, or 90 yards, 12 inches in diameter; for the 8 roods, or 60 yards 8 inches; and for the 4 roods, or 30 yards, the mark is only 4 inches.

No shot reckons but that which is within the pasteboard, and he who hits it most during the day, is the winner, but where two reckon the same number, then *his* nearest the peg claims the game; but when it is doubtful who has the best shot, then they shoot again, and he who hits nearest the mark in any part of the butt, or to save time in that advanced state, who even shoots nearest the butt itself, the first shot is the winner.

The same at target shooting.

Many Archers can shoot better at one distance than another, therefore, that no man shall keep an advantage to himself, 'tis customary to shoot an equal number of ends at all the butts.

A single end, is merely shooting at one mark, but a double end is shooting back again to the mark shot from.

Target Shooting.

Target shooting is generally at one distance, (viz. gentlemens' at 100 yards, and ladies' at 50.

'Tis best for gentlemen to begin at 70 or 80 yards, and as they improve, to place them further apart.

The target consists of three things; the boss, the facing, and the stand or frame.

The diameter of the gentlemens' target from the extremity of the outer circle is four feet, and all shots beyond that, do not reckon as being in the target.

The bass is made of compressed straw, and wrought after the manner of bee hives.

Some years since, there was a trifling controversy between a few Archers respecting the bass, (viz.) which was more durable, that made from thrashed straw, or from straw not thrashed.

Some were of opinion, that unthrashed straw was most preferable, because it remained unbroken by the blows of the flail; while others maintained that thrashed straw was the best, for the very reason the opposite party assigned; for as every unthrashed straw is hollow when formed into a bass, the Arrow

which penetrates it must split, and therefore make it fall flat, thereby shrinking into a smaller space than before, loosening the binding, consequently weakening the whole fabrick, and rendering it very soon unfit for use.

But when the bass is made of straw, already laid flat by the flail before it is bound, it cannot shrink into a smaller compass, by the penetration of the Arrow.

The facing is generally of canvass sown on the bass. There are four circles independant of the gold or centre, (viz.) the red, inner white, black, and outer white, which last is bordered by a dark green.

Ladies targets are upon the same principle, but considerably smaller. There is likewise another kind of target made of millboard; this is not near so durable as the former, but when they are to be carried into the field every time they are used, they then become desirable, as being so portable, that a boy may with ease carry a pair, and the frames also.

It is not usual to shoot at one target only, for that causes twice the trouble, but by having two, the Archer's shoot from one to the other, and save a deal of unnecessary walking.

As the great advantage of Archery is the exercise which attends it; every person shooting, should walk himself to the place where his Arrows are shot, and not send another.

Not more than two or three Arrows are shot with at a time, for after that, the aim gets unsteady.

It is best to shoot with a little elevation, rather than point blank, that when the Arrow falls the feathers may remain above the grass; in shooting, point blank, the Arrow not only looses itself in the grass, but if it is anyways damp, spoils the feathers, besides losing a considerable time in seeking for the Arrow.

Never shoot when the grass is above the shoes, unless at a *very* great elevation.

Do not shoot with another persons Bow, without his permission, for if it should break, the damage may be greater than the intrinsic value can repay.

At the targets two prizes are shot for, one for the most number of hits, and the other for the shot nearest to the centre; this is certainly the best way, as it is an encouragement to young Archers, and gives them a chance for a prize; for as every Arrow must have a lighting place, it is not improbable, that one of these may be placed in the gold.

The prize for numbers will always of course be won by the best Archer.

There are two ways in reckoning the numbers; one by the mere number of hits, without distinction to the circles; the other by the hits as they approach

the centre, which the nearer it is, the more it reckons, thus a hit in the gold, is equal to nine in the outer white, because the gold is nine times less in size, consequently nine times a less chance of hitting it.

Every circle approaching nearer to the centre, becoming smaller in the circumference, the chances of hitting them are likewise smaller; therefore, are reckoned according to those chances, that are against the shooter.

The diameter of the gold is nine inches and a half.

The value of each circle according to the Toxophilite Society's system encreases two, (viz.)

The outer white, one.

The black, three.

The inner white, five.

The red, seven.

And the gold, nine.

But they considerably over-rate most of them, the real value being for—

The gold, nine.

The red, three.

The inner white, two

And the black, one and a quarter, or five counts, for every four hits.

The target contains about seventeen hundred and fifty four square inches, and are thus divided into the five circles, viz.

The gold, seventy two.

The red, two hundred and fourteen.

The inner-white, three hundred and fifty-two.

The black, four hundred and ninety.

And the outer-white, six hundred and twenty-six.

If the aggregate amount of every circle is divided by its width, (viz.) four inches and three quarters, the circumference of each will be—

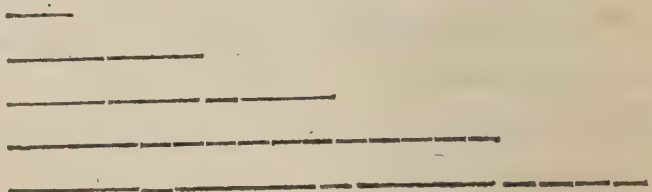
For the gold, fifteen inches.

The red, forty-five.

The inner-white, seventy-four.

The black, one hundred and three.—And

The outer-white, one hundred and thirty-two; which if they could be drawn straight, their different lengths would be after the following proportion,



by which it will appear that the gold is a ninth part of the size of the outer-white, the red a third, the inner-white half, and the black only four-fifths.

If a person was to hit the target every time, the chance of his hitting the gold, would be near twenty four to one against him.

The skirt or margin of the target, has of late years by many Archers been called the *petticoat*, and by others the *sous*.

In keeping an account of the game, a shooter at each target should have a card marked out into squares with the names of the Archers wrote down on the left side, and the names of the circles on the top, (see plate 2d. figure 1.) Where A, B. and C. are shooters, A. has got three shots in the gold, seven in the red, ten in the inner-white, twelve in the black, and twenty in the outer-white, which amounts in the total to fifty-two; but according to the value of each circle, to one hundred and three, (viz.) by multiplying the hits in the gold by nine, in the red by three, in the inner-white by two, the black one fourth of its hits added together, and in the outer-white, each hit standing for one.

B. has three in the gold, four in the red, twelve in the inner-white, seven in the black, and twenty-two in the outer-white: the total of which is forty-eight, but the value ninety-three.

And C. has one in the gold, two in the red, four in the inner-white, six in the black, and ten in the outer-white; total twenty-three, value forty.

Let it be supposed, that the above three are shooting for a cup and medal, A, as having most number of shots, is entitled to the cup, and C, though he had a less number than B, yet his one shot in the gold being nearer than any of B's, is entitled to the medal, but one of A's, is still nearer than C's.—A, cannot claim both prizes, but as he has won both, he may take his choice; if he takes the medal for the central shot, B, as being next in numbers, cannot claim the cup, that would be unfair to C, who would be entitled to the medal, if A, took the cup.—It seems but reasonable, that if A, takes C's prize, C, should have A's; as the cup is of the greatest value: it is not probable any dispute would ever occur.

A pin should be suspended from the card, to prick down the shots,—the mark of a pencil may rub out, and ink in the field is inconvenient, but the prick of a pin cannot easily be defaced.

The card only accounts for the bare number of shots, not the central ones, so when two or more have hits in the gold, to prevent disputes, every Archer should write his name over it, before he draws his Arrow, and which *bye the bye* would stand as a memorial of his achievements, as long as the target lasted.

If the Arrows fall upon the edge of a circle, it counts in that one which has the greater part; but if

it is so equal as to make it doubtful, which circle it is most in, the Arrow is counted as a hit in the outer one, so again if the Arrow lights more upon the border than the outer-white, it reckons nothing; but many societies will not allow an Arrow to reckon in a circle, unless it is completely within it, but must be reckoned in the outer-one.

Ladies targets contain about five hundred and fifty square inches, and may be thus divided,—

The gold, twenty-one.

The red, sixty-five.

The inner-white, one hundred and ten.

The black, one hundred and fifty-five.

And the outer-white, two hundred and two.

If these respective numbers are likewise divided by their width, their circumference will be—

For the gold, eight inches.

The red, twenty-five.

The inner-white, forty-two.

The black, fifty-nine.

And the outer-white, seventy-six.

And which if laid out in straight lines will be after the same proportion as the former.

Mr. Roberts in his English Bowman, page 113, gives an account of the number of shots by which a member of the Toxophilite society won the prize in 1795; four in the gold; seventeen in the red; nineteen in the inner-white; twenty-four in the black;

and twenty-six in the outer-white, in the whole ninety shots, which undoubtedly is very great shooting; but the value of those ninety shots he makes amount according to their system, to three hundred and forty-eight, when their real value is no more than one hundred and eighty-one.

Roving is another kind of shooting, very different from the former, but equally and to some Archers more pleasing, each shot almost always varying from the last.

The marks generally consist of Trees, Bushes, or any other conspicuous object.

The reason this kind of shooting is called roving, is, because the shooters are not confined to any particular spot, but shoot from field to field, through a country of some miles in circuit. The sort of country most adapted to roving is, where there are many straggling trees, not confined in hedges, and where the shooters can without difficulty traverse from field to field.

A roving party should not exceed more than six persons, above that number they should divide into companies, thus the first company takes the lead, and when they have shot to the next mark, and walked some distance, then the second company shoot to the first, and so on with the others.

A company is not compelled to follow another company's marks, though they should never be more than a field or two apart.

The number of the game is optional, but latterly many Archers have made it seven.

Arrows that reach the mark within five lengths of its Bow, reckon, yet with this exception, that if several shoot within the distance, the nearest cuts the others out; thus A. and B. are adversaries, A. has two counts; B. one; but B's Arrow is between A's two, by which he cuts A's farthest Arrow out, and does not score himself, because A's first Arrow is before his, but if A. has two Arrows within five lengths of his Bow, unseparated by his adversary, then he scores two; in short every Arrow coming within the limits is cut out by the first of the adversary's, this law is thought by some Archers to be very arbitrary, and therefore is not generally followed.

Many allow every Arrow to count that is within reach; seven it has been said is game, but where two as partners shoot against two, then a greater number is game.

When three Archers shoot against two of equal skill, then the three must reckon more to their game than the other two, but good Archers shooting against inferior one's may allow the odds.

In measuring the distance, the Archer places one end of his Bow against the tree, a foot from the ground.

Thus if two Arrows are even shot into the trunk

of a tree, that one which is nearest to a foot from the ground, will cut the other out.

If an Arrow is shot into the ground within a foot of the trunk, and another in the branches, the first is the best shot, because the trunk is the mark, and not the branches, for from the elevation of the Arrow, it is most reasonable to be supposed, it would have gone a considerable distance farther if it had not been stopped by the branches, but if no other Arrow is within count, then that in the branches may reckon.

If every Arrow is allowed to count that is within the five Bow lengths, then more than seven ought to be the game.

When an Arrow is shot into a tree, or in wood of any description, and it does not come out easily, the wood round the Arrow must be cut away.

The marks must be within the reach of every Archer's Arrow, and when that is not the case, then he who cannot shoot so far must walk in untill he can, but then he must use a flight Arrow and draw it up to an elevation of forty-five degrees.

In measuring the distance of an Arrow from the mark, the Archer may place the end of his Bow to any part of the Arrow he likes.

Every Archer must measure the distance with his own Bow; but where two Arrows are nearly within

an equal distance, then to see which is nearest they measure with the same bow.

He who gains the last shot, has the privilege of naming the next mark, and continues that privilege till another scores.

It is necessary for every Archer to have nearly a dozen Arrows by him as in roving, a few will not be sufficient.

Blunt-headed Arrows are here better than sharp ones.

The marks are generally about two hundred yards distant.

Flight Shooting.

Flight shooting is another kind of diversion with the long Bow, but it is very little practised, as its only tendency is to see who can shoot farthest; it is rather dangerous to the Bow, as it compels Archer's to use longer Arrows than general; the longest and lightest that will stand in the Bow are selected.

The farthest Arrow counts, and so does every other that is sent farther than his adversary's; seven is game.

Clout Shooting.

This is a round piece of paste-board of about twelve inches diameter, spliced in a stick and stuck

in the ground, and generally placed from one hundred and fifty, to two hundred yards apart, and every Arrow that counts must be within three Bows lengths of the clout; and the reason it is limited to three, is that an Archer may soon shoot within that distance, when the marks continue the same; it is only when they vary in length, as in roving, that five Bow lengths are allowed.

Clout shooting is mostly practised by those, who have not the convenience of a ground near home, where they can shoot at targets or butts, but have to resort to a common or public fields, in which case for their portableness the small mill-board target or clouts are taken with them. Some Archers near London make the clouts of white cloth with a seam on each side, and a stick run through for the convenience of rolling up. Seven is the game.

Mr. Roberts in his English Bowman, mentions a few other games, but which are seldom or ever followed, those most practised are the targets, butts, and roving.

A young Archer should not shoot by himself, for he gets into a habit of indifference, but if he shoots with another, he then aims to emulate, and therefore in a little time shoots well.

The following articles are the Archer's accoutrements, and which he will find necessary to call into

his aid,—viz.—The brace, the shooting glove, the tassel, the belt and pouch, the quiver, and grease box.

The Brace.

Buckles round the Bow-arm to prevent the string hurting it, which without one, would render the Archer incapable of shooting from the pain the stroke of the string would inflict. In former times many Archers did not wear any thing to protect the arm, but braced the string so high from the Bow that when loosed could not reach the arm, but such a plan is bad, and will often endanger the Bow; for as it always receives a jerk when loosed, if it is received when the Bow is much bent, the grain of the wood being likewise bent, is more likely to break from the force of that jerk.

Nor can a Bow overstrung send an Arrow so far as one understrung, like a man whose arm is half confined, cannot fling a stone so far as one who has the full use of it, so if a Bow is stopped in its velocity by the confinement of the string, it cannot send an Arrow so far as when it has a greater course to make.

A Bow is overstrung when the centre of the string measures from the centre of the Bow, more than six inches, and ladies' Bows five inches.

As then, there are two great disadvantages attending a Bow overstrung; modern Archers always wear

the brace, and which is generally made of stout leather: the surface should be smooth that the string may the better glide over it.

The Shooting Glove,

Is to save the fingers from being hurt by the string, and consists of three finger stalls, a back thong cut into three slips and a cross strap, which buttons round the wrist the finger stalls are sown to the three slips of the thong, and are put on the fingers that draw the string; some Archers only use two fingers, but that can only be done to weak Bows, or short shooting; to a strong Bow a third finger is absolutely necessary; the stalls should not project more over the fingers than is sufficient to protect them, as the string glides by, nor drawn so far as to cover the first joint, for that will confine them from the power of drawing up the Bow well.

The Belt,

Buckles round the waist, from which on the right side is suspended the pouch or bucket, to receive the Arrows, intended for present use.

The tassel is hung on the left side for the purpose of wiping the dirt from the Arrow, that may happen to cling to it, when drawn out of the ground.

The tassel is a very requisite accoutrement to an Archer, for an Arrow can seldom be drawn from the

ground without some dirt adhering to it, which if not wiped off will prevent the Arrow from flying. The tassel is then suspended from the belt on the left side for that purpose, and which is used directly the Arrow is drawn out of the ground.

The Grease Box,

Is suspended from the middle of the belt, and contains a composition, for anointing occasionally the finger of the shooting glove, that the string may the more readily slip off, likewise the brace when it is worn rough.

The Quiver,

Is never constantly worn but in roving; in shooting at targets or butts, it is placed a few yards by the side of them, two or three Arrows only being sufficient, the rest are kept in reserve, to supply the place of those that may meet with accidents, or for any other cause that the shooter may wish to change them. Quivers were formerly made of wood, and which were succeeded by those of leather, but for these last few years, tin quivers have been preferred by almost every Archer, as keeping the Arrows more secure from the wet, and being considerably lighter, and though the last reason, not the least, being three fourths less expence.

An Ascham,

Is a long upright case, for the purpose of containing the whole of the Archer's Accoutrements, it is considerably deeper at nearly the middle to the bottom, than at the top, the lower part holds a rack for above four dozen of Arrows; this rack does not go quite to the back, but a space is left for the Bows to hang behind; at the top are generally a couple of drawers to put the smaller accoutrements, (see plate 2d. figure 2.

Gentlemen have their Aschams generally placed in their Halls, and is rather an ornament to them then otherwise, and among a society of Archers, when they are placed in a row in their pavillion or meeting room, with each, his arms and crest painted on them, assume *a noble appearance*.

Cross Bow—Plate 2, Figure 6.

This can hardly be said to come under the head of Archery, for not one rule in the foregoing pages is applicable to this; but those who used them in former times in battle, were always stiled *Archers*, or *Cross Bow Men*, and indeed they might be called so with more propriety then those who use them now, for those Archers discharged Arrows from their Bows; the present ones shoot only bullets, whatever might have been its powers as a weapon of war; it is now

like the long Bow, reduced to an instrument of amusement, and that amusement chiefly confined, and for which it is well adapted for shooting Rooks, Hares, Rabbits, and Game in general.

The modern Cross Bow for that purpose possesses one great advantage over the fowling piece, which is, that in the discharge, it is free from any loud noise, for a person when shooting with a fowling piece in a rookery or warren, is sure to alarm the whole fraternity by the report of the first fire, which makes it a considerable time before he can get a second, but a Cross Bow has only a slight twang in the loose.

It likewise possesses an advantage equal with the rifle, the aim being guided by the position of a small moveable bead, and which can be placed to such an exactness as to bring down at ninety, or one hundred and twenty feet to a certainty, the object aimed at.

The shooter will please to observe the following directions, how to use the Cross Bow.

Pull back the string at the lower end of the butt, No. 2.

Bring out the lever to its full extent, No. 3.

Place the end of the Bow against the ground, almost perpendicularly down.

Rest the butt-end firm against the thigh, or lower part of the body.

In the string a place is made to receive the ball, called the cradle, No. 1.

With both hands close on each side of the cradle, pull the string up to the end of the lever, till the eye under the cradle fastens on the catch, called the tumbler, No. 4, then press the ball into the centre of cradle.

Bring the right arm forward, that the palm of the hand may rest on the button of the lever.

Push the lever home and not pull it.

The hand must not be taken from the button, until certain the lever is fast within the spring, as the velocity with which it would return, might hurt the shooter was it to strike him, and probably break the stock.

If the object should remove while drawing up the Bow, let the lever go gently back, but if it is already fast at the spring, even then, it were better to shoot the ball waste, then to keep it long in full tension.

But if the lever is let back, the string may be kept over the tumbler.

Before any one can shoot with certainty, he must be sure the bead is set correct.

Let it be observed, that at the end of the Bow is the fork, No. 5, which when not in use lays flat down, when it is in use, it is pulled up; from one side of the

Fork to the other runs a line, and upon this line, the bead is made to act.

At the lower end of the lever over the trigger, is an iron plate, (figure 6,) which likewise pulls up and down; through this plate are three or four small holes, all of which but one are stopped up with wax, that one according to the shooters own convenience, through this hole he (his eye an inch or two from the plate,) takes his aim, and whatever is the object, he must place the bead in a direct line with it, so that if the object is small, the bead may intercept the view of it.

To set the bead correct, let the shooter place a small piece of paper against a bank or wall, forty or fifty feet distance, and shoot at it, if the ball goes to the right, the bead must be turned round to the right on the line which crosses the fork more or less, according as it is wide from the mark; if the ball goes to the left, then the bead must be turned to the left.

A superficial observer would perhaps act quite contrary, but reflection will convince him otherwise, for if the bead is turned to the right, after it is once placed in a line with the mark, the bead gets out of that line, to replace it therefore in the line, the whole Bow must be moved to the left, which will of course shoot a ball to the left of the last shot, and consequently nearer the mark.

Again, if the ball goes over the mark, the line must be moved a few inches higher on the fork, if the ball goes under the mark, then the line must be lowered.

But if the ball goes higher, and on one side of the mark, then the line must be raised, and the bead turned:

The ball should be put exactly in the centre of the cradle.

Care must be taken that the left hand which supports the Bow, be below the surface of the stock, that the string may not hit the fingers.

The stock of the Bow is held in the same manner as a gun.

The trigger under the stock is likewise the same as in a gun.

Beside the trigger, there is a button at the top of the stock, immediately behind the sight, which if pressed down by the right thumb, will discharge the Bow: some Bows have only the button, and not the trigger, but the trigger is best.

The string is seldom taken off, even though it is not used for several months, this perhaps may be from the difficulty attending the unstringing it, which requires a little mechanical operation, but if a person can get into the right method, when he intends to lay the Bow aside for some months or weeks, it will be of

more benefit to the Bow, than keeping it constantly bent.

The stringer is simply another string, with hooks and screws, the hooks are put on each end of the Bow and screwed tight to it, this done, the lever is brought forward, and instead of the string, the stringer is carried over the tumbler, and drawn up, the string then becomes sufficiently slack to be taken off; the same method is to be observed in putting on the string. To disencumber the stringer from the tumbler, it is best to be let down again by means of the lever, and not to discharge it by the trigger.

The Bow should be kept in a dry situation, to prevent it rusting.

The following summary articles are offered to Archers desirous of forming themselves into a society, as a kind of basis, upon which they may draw out their Laws.

This society should consist of a certain number of effective members.*

The society to be named appropriately, viz. from the name of the Town it is held near, or from the County, or from any other local situation, as the "Kentish Bowman," the "Yorkshire Archers," the "Woodmen of Arden," &c. (see page 66.

The society should have a Patron and Patroness, ‡ a President, three or four Vice-Presidents, besides the usual Officers of Secretary and Treasurer, and a Committee, to regulate their finances and other affairs.

* The members should be limited according to circumstances, such as the situation and conveniences where they assemble; if they reside many miles apart, more might be admitted, that when they live concentrated and could easily assemble together.

‡ The Patron and Patroness should be the most distinguished Persons in the County.

The patron and patroness to retain their titles during their own pleasure, the president and other officers to be elected annually.

Each member should wear an uniform, the coat of green, the other part of the dress of a buff, or some light colour.*

Care should be taken that every member's coat be cut from the same cloth, as there are various shades in the colour of green, likewise that they be made after one fashion: this circumstance is mentioned, because it has been observed of late years in a society near London, that scarcely three members have their coats of the same shape or colour.—A grass green is the proper colour.

The society should have a certain number of stated days to shoot, some more grand than others, § the common meetings once a week, the grand days about four or five times during the summer months, and should have a particular name allotted to each of

* The Uniform of the Toxophilite Society, is a Green Coat, single breasted, with an Arrow engraved on the buttons, Buff Kerseymere Waistcoat and small Cloaths, Hessian Boots, Hat turned up on the right side, with a black Feather, with Belt and other Accoutrements.

§ The grand days are generally allotted for shooting at Targets only.

them, as for instance, "The Spring meeting,"—"The Patron's meeting,"—"The Summer meeting,"—"The Lady Patroness's meeting,"—"The Autumn meeting," &c. on which days to promote and encourage emulation,—prizes should be shot for.

On target and other grand days, every member should appear in full uniform. On weekly meetings every part of the dress might be dispensed with except the coat, but on other days when members only meet to practise, the whole might be dispensed with.

In respect to the disbursements, it is recommended that the society do abstain from all extraordinary expences, for unnecessary expenditures have been the cause of reducing the number of many societies,* a committee would prevent any thing of this nature occurring, as it might be made part of their duty so to do, and to render an account at the close of every season to the whole society.

But upon any extra grand day being proposed, it should be the business of the committee to look into the state of their funds, to see if a sum could be spared to cover the expences attending the same, and if

* A Gentleman once a Member of the Kentish Bowmen, told the Author, that it seldom cost him less than Ten Guineas on their grand Days, the consequence was, that from such extravagances, the society was soon annihilated.

not, any further sums intended to be raised, should be done among the attending members, and not the absentees, many a gentleman may have no objection of paying his annual subscription though seldom attending, but not approve of after-calls, when he does not partake of those diversions which caused them.*

A certain sum should be set apart to defray the charges of each target dinner, the deficiencies to be made good by the parties present.

Instead of adjourning to coffee-houses and hotels to dine, a pavillion ought to be erected in the archery ground, and one person, or the whole of the members in turn, should provide a collation and for which, to give in his account to the treasurer or committee. §

* As an instance, when circular letters where sent round to every member of a society near London some years since, demanding an extra sum to meet the debts contracted by a few; many declared they did not think themselves amenable for the conduct of others, if they were, they laid themselves open to fresh demands continually, to prevent which, they would withdraw themselves from the society, and accordingly about twenty withdrew at one time

§ An article in the Royal British Bowmen, compels every member in rotation to provide a Dinner, a limitation is made as to the number of Dishes, and a display of any thing Hot, is punishable by a fine of Five Guineas.

A meeting should likewise be summoned every winter, for the purpose of auditing the accounts of the last year, electing fresh officers, receiving subscriptions for the ensuing season, and making any other arrangements that may be deemed necessary; a sum out of the fund should likewise be allotted for the dinner on this day, this meeting to be called "The Winter Meeting."

The Archery ground to be a good one, should be at least two hundred and fifty yards long, and one hundred and fifty wide—upon a level.—'Tis best to have sheep to feed upon it, as their constant grazing keeps the grass continually and regularly low, the grass several yards about the marks should be kept particularly short, that the Arrows may not be lost.

Every Archer should have his mark painted on his Arrow, under a penalty.

Four shooters is the proper number for each target, though if the meeting should be numerously attended, then six Archers might be allowed, but no more.

When the number of shooters at each target amount to four they should divide themselves, the first two to shoot alternately, and after that retire behind the other two, who then come forward in their turn.

If the shooters at one target have all shot their limited number of Arrows, before the shooters at the

others, they must wait till all have shot, and then walk a regular pace to the opposite targets, except where one breaks a string, or meets with any other accident, then the rest go on without him, and he himself loses the benefit of those shots he might have had in the time he is repairing his damages.

Where there are many sets of targets, a person should be appointed to stand half-way between the opposite ones, about twenty yards from the line of the outer set, where he can command a view of the whole Archers, who when they have all shot, may march at a signal given by him, such as waving a small flag.

On what is called "Grand Days," a band of music stationed behind the observer, playing while the Archers are marching from target to target, has a very pretty effect.

No one should be allowed to stand in front of the shooter, for any object that catches the eye, may draw his attention from the mark.

A fine ought to attend the non-compliance of members not appearing in uniform according to the articles, and likewise for the breach of any other articles.

No member ought to be allowed to shoot, until he has paid up his subscription and fines that he may

have incurred, or if he was permitted, to be disabled from winning any prizes.

None but members ought to shoot, and any one introducing a stranger ‡ to shoot, not entitled, should merit the censure of the society if not fined.

While one is shooting, him that is to shoot next, should have his Arrow ready nocked to the string, that too much time need not be lost.

When an Archer has shot, he must turn round to his left, and go to the back of his party, which when they have shot theirs, then the first Archer shoots his second, and so on. An Archer must stand in front of the mark he is shooting from, yet not more than a yard, and if his Arrow should fall from the string and he cannot reach it with his Bow, it must be accounted a shot.

It is customary on "Grand Days," particularly on the "Lady Patroness' meeting," for every member to invite a few Ladies, and in the evening to have a Ball in the Pavillion, on which occasion the Ladies in compliment to the Archers, generally form part of their dress of green.

‡ The Toxophilite Society gave an invitation to all Societies to shoot with them at their meetings, and which was given by every society to them in return, so that at one time there was a general communication among Archers all over England.

As the exercise of shooting with the long Bow is to promote a manly amusement, and not for the purpose of gambling; all sums of money shot for, or wages won, should be forfeited to the fund.

He who on a target meeting wins the greatest prize, is on the same target meeting in the year following, the captain for the day; the whole business of that day is under his direction, and it is his duty to see that every member acts conformable to the laws of the society, he takes the chair and all appeals are made to him. He who wins the second prize is the lieutenant, and in the absence of the captain, takes his place and performs his duty.

One of the articles in the laws of the Scorton Archers runs thus, "VII Item. For as much as the
 " exercise of Archery is lawful, laudable, heathful and
 " innocent; and to the end that God's Holy Name
 " may not be dishonored by any of the society, it is
 " agreed and hereby declared, that if any of them
 " shall that day, curse or swear, in the hearing of any
 " of the company, and the same be proved before the
 " captain or lieutenant, he shall forewith pay down
 " one shilling, and so proportionate for every oath;
 " to be distributed by the captain to the use of the
 " poor of that place, or township where they shoot;
 " and in case of refusal or neglect to pay the same,
 " then such party to be excluded from shooting, till

“ payment is made as aforesaid,—a very good law, for as swearing is unbecoming the character of a gentleman, every thing should be excluded, that is derogatory to good behaviour.

One of the articles in the Toxophilite society, mentions, that if any member marry, he shall treat the rest with a marriage feast.

The following is the form of privilege, sent from one society to another.

The society of Yorkshire Archers to the president for the time being, and the rest of the members of the Toxophilite society at Leicester House.

The society meeting at Chapel-town under the title of Yorkshire Archers:—

Send Greeting,

In consideration of the good will we bear to Archers in general, and especially to the worthy members of the Toxophilite Society, and being zealous to promote and bring into universal practise and perfection, the ancient renowned and universal science of Archery, and knowing that to cultivate a free communication and intercourse between the several societies in Great Britain, will greatly contribute thereto—We have thought fit to *give* and *grant* to all and every the members of the Toxophilite Society of Archers, the freedom of thus our society, this is to say, the free

liberty of associating with us and of shooting at the butts and targets of our society, on our days and times of meeting, to which we most cordially invite you, when and as often as the same shall happen to be convenient to you, or any of you.

Given under our seal at chapel-town, the fourth day of October, in the thirtieth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord King George the III. and in the year of our Lord, 1790.

HENRY DIXON,
Secretary.

WENTWORTH FITZWILLIAM,
PRESIDENT.

The Author is perfectly aware that books are but imperfect means of conveying instructions, he therefore does not flatter himself, that he should be more fortunate in being understood than an Author upon any other science, but still in the absence of personal instruction the above may be of some utility to the young Archer who may live several miles in the country, but if ever he feels disposed to honor the Author with a visit, he will be happy to devote an hour or two to his service.

The following List of Societies,

THAT WITHIN THESE

FEW YEARS EXISTED,

Will bear testimony of the estimation the

LONG BOW

WAS HELD IN.

Aycliffe Archers, near Durham.

Archers of Nevill's Cross, at Durham.

Archers of Archinfield, near Hereford.

Bowmen of the Borders.

Bowmen of Chevy Chace, Patron, the Duke of North-
umberland.

British Bowmen, Prince of Wales, Patron.

Broughton Archers, Manchester.

Cheetham-Hill Archers, Manchester.

Darlington Archers, Yorkshire.

Edinburgh Archers.

Finsbury Archers.

Hatfield Archers, Lady Salisbury, Patroness.

Henault Foresters, Essex, this society consists both
of Ladies and Gentlemen.

John of Gaunt's Bowmen, Lancashire.

Kentish Bowmen, Prince of Wales, Patron.

Kentish Rangers.

Kilwinning Archers, Scotland.
 Lancashire and Cheshire Archers.
 London Archers.
 Mercian Bowmen, near Coventry.
 Middleton Archers.
 Preston Archers.
 Robin Hood's Bowmen, Highgate.
 Richmond Archers, Yorkshire.
 St. George's Bowmen, Lewisham.
 Scorton Archers, Yorkshire.
 Sheerwood Forresters.
 Southampton Archers, Duke of Gloucester, Patron.
 Surry Archers, Duke of Clarence, Patron.
 Toxophilite Society, London.
 Woodmen of Arden, Lord Aylesford, Patron.
 Woodmen of Hornsey.
 Wharfedale Archers.
 Yorkshire Archers, Earl Fitz William, Patron, Countess Mexborough, Patroness.

The different kind of Prizes that are shot for, are

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 Silver Bugles.
 Silver Cups.
 Gold Medals.
 Silver Medals—besides
 Bows and Arrows.

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- III. An Inquiry and Investigation into all the Ancient Feats (of Archery Achieved with the Long Bow, with an Account of Robin Hood, from an Authentic Record,) and a comparison of those with the Feats of Modern Archers.
- IV. The Art and Practice of Archery, with a Comment upon the Toxophilus of Ascham, and a Glossary of the Terms used in Archery, with many Notes and Historical Illustrations,

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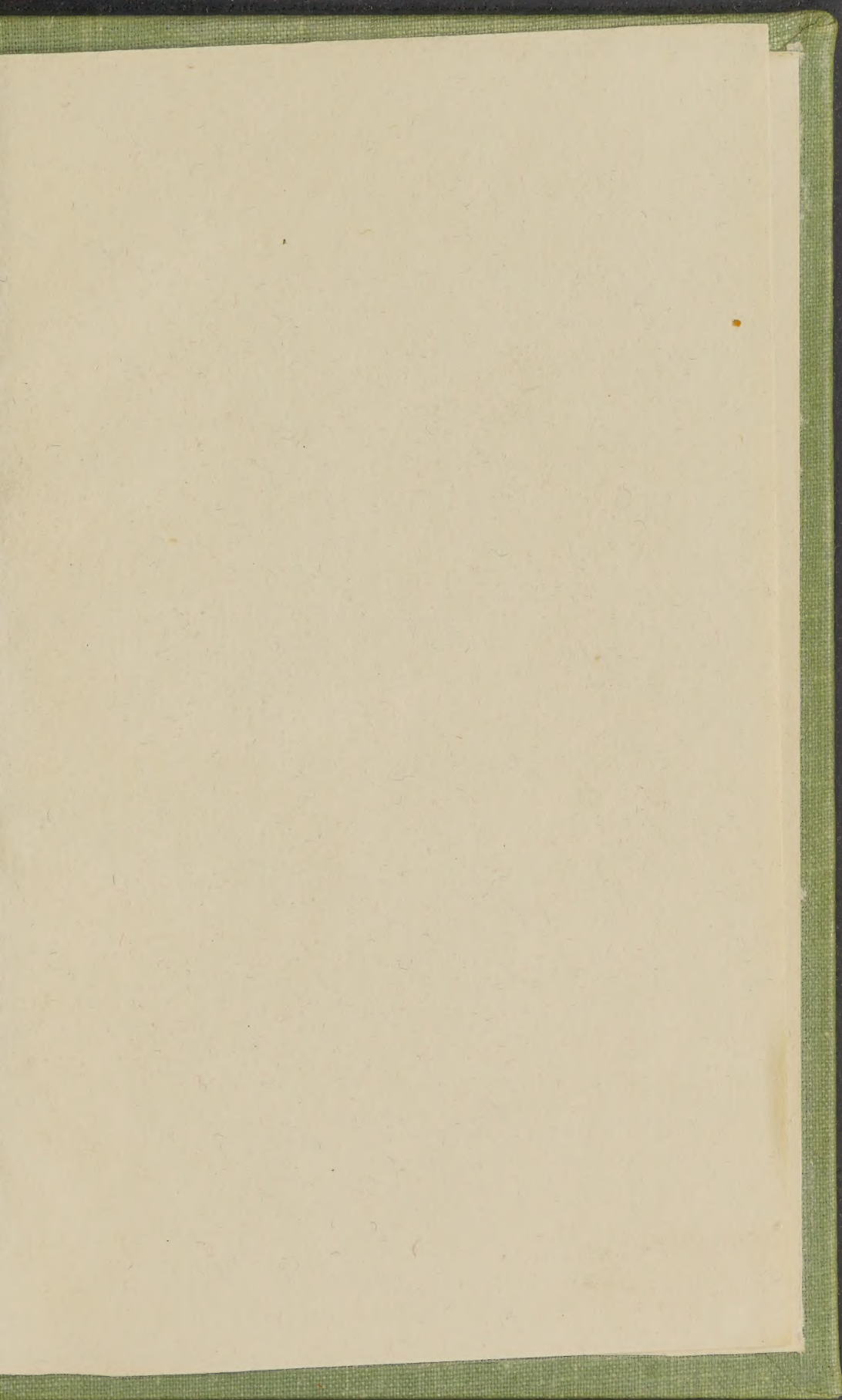
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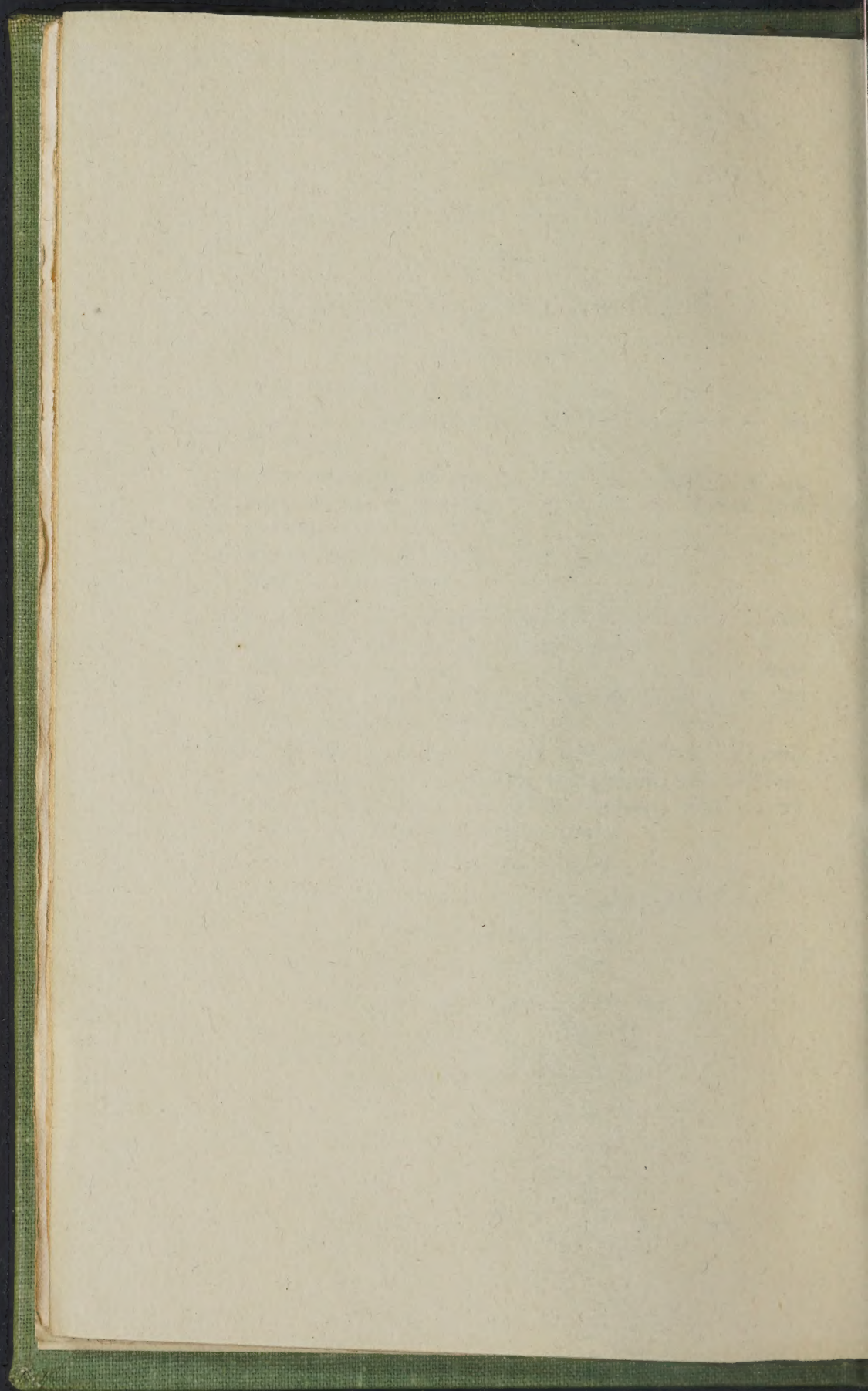
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BY T. ROBERTS,

A Member of the Toxophilite Society.

The Frontispiece (an Archer in Attitude) by PORTER,
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